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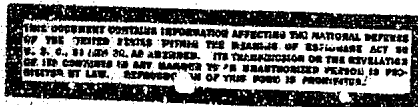
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DIFFICULTIES OF TRAVELING IN ALBANIA

The following report notes that preferential treatment is given to Albanian and Soviet functionaries in the use of travel facilities.

Traveling in Albania is still a difficult problem. The only way of going from Tirana to Elbasan is by rail. The only train leaves Tirana daily at 0700 in the morning and arrives at Elbasan at 1300. The train consists of a locomotive and several dilapidated cars. Considering that the rolling stock was used for 40 years by the [Soviet] government which sold it to its Albanian friends a few years ago, the fare is very high. As might be expected, the train often does not run at all. Then the wretched traveler has no other choice than continuing his trip on foot.

Travel between other cities is even more difficult. To get a seat on a motorbus, one must go to the ticket agency a week beforehand. This delay is attributed to the shortage of motorbuses.

The writer of this article had to wait 4 days to go from Korce to Berat and then was left behind by the chauffeur in spite of an extra tip.

Furthermore, distinctions are made between Communists and their friends on the one hand, and, on the other hand, those who are not connected with the Party. Kulaks, even if they have relatives in a city or neighboring village, are completely excluded from using state motorbuses. Since there are no privately owned cars in Albania nowadays, the Kulak must travel on foot, or find some type of vehicle other than motorcars.

Travelers from Korce to Elbasan, Durrës, or Tirana must take the above-mentioned train, but those who come from cities in South Albania must travel by state bus to Rogoshine, where they transfer to a train.

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The roads [sic] from Elbasan to Durrës, Durrës to Tirana, and Elbasan to Tirana, are reserved for soldiers, security organization members, Soviets, and certain distinguished guests from Albania's sister republics. The Red hierarchy, in particular, with their male and female friends, and other favorites of the regime, can travel everywhere in their luxurious automobiles without restrictions or delays.

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